

## **Fentanyl and Fentanyl analogues**

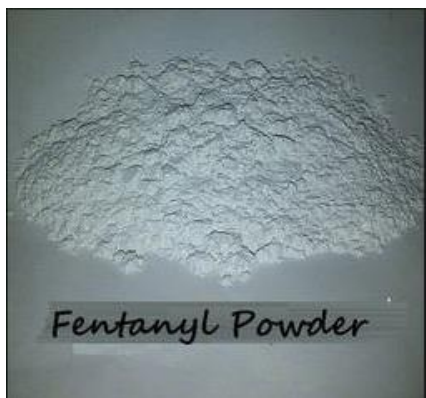
- These substances are powerful synthetic opiate pain killers. Analogues are not intended for medical purposes and are not to be consumed by humans. But, these substances are widespread in Fargo/Moorhead. Users are primarily young people (14 to 22 year olds).  
<https://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2015/hq031815.shtml>  
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/fentanyl>
- They are extremely potent. They are dosed in micrograms (1 gram = 1,000,000 micrograms).
- These substances are primarily ordered via the darkweb. Payment is made via Bitcoins. The purchase is then shipped via a parcel delivery service (USPS, UPS, Fed Ex, etc). Some are shipped from within the US and Canada, while others are shipped from overseas.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darknet\\_market](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darknet_market)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bitcoin>

- These substances are primarily produced in China or other countries overseas.
- When produced, these substances are a very fine white to off white powder. The powder is so fine, that it can be easily become airborne, inhaled, and pose the risk of exposure to anyone near the substance.



- The powder is also water soluble and can be absorbed through your skin.
- Any exposure is potentially fatal. Any exposure should result in a call to 911.

- In Fargo/Moorhead, we are primarily seeing fentanyl analogues dissolved in water and used by inhaling the fentanyl analogue solution nasally. Fentanyl analogues dissolved in solution can be stored in any container, but water bottles and nasal spray bottles are common. Nasal spray bottles are used to ingest the fentanyl analogue solution nasally.



- Due to the potency of fentanyl analogues and the fast acting nature of these substances, users will have to ingest multiple sprays repeatedly and frequently (every 30 minutes or so).
- Users of fentanyl analogues will exhibit many signs of use, to include:
  - o Constricted pupils
  - o Slurred or slowed speech
  - o Slowed movements, actions, or reactions
  - o Nodding in and out of consciousness
- Withdrawals from fentanyl analogues is difficult and painful. If an addict decides to stop use, the difficulties and pain of withdrawal will often drive an addict to return to use to avoid withdrawals.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opioid\\_use\\_disorder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opioid_use_disorder)
- If you suspect someone you know is involved in the use of fentanyl analogues, please say something. The risk of addiction is high. If addicted, the likelihood of stopping use without help is small. The risk of overdose and death is very high.
- <http://drugabuse.com/library/fentanyl-abuse/>